2004-2005

Saturday, November 27, 2004
8 pm. Victoria College Chapel

University of Toronto
Faculty of Music
presents

The University Women's Chorus
Robert Cooper, C.M., conductor
Mia Bach, accompanist

in

SONGS OF MARY

Angelus ad Virginem — 13th century chant (arr. Paul Halley)

Medieval and Modern

In dulci jubilo — Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)
I sing of a maiden — Patrick Hadley
Ecce Maria — Michael Praetorius
Mary Speaks — Daniel E.Gawthrop

Christmas Cantata — Vincent Luebeck (1656 – 1740)

Willkommen, Suesser Braeutigam
Sonata
Stanza 1 Coro: Willkommen suesser Brautigam
Stanza 2 Coro: O grosses Werk
Stanza 3 Solo: O liebes Kind
Christine Lee, solo
Stanza 4 Coro: Sag an, mein Herzensbrautigam
Stanza 5 Coro: Lob, Preis und Dank

Magnificat — Z. Randall Stroope
Alicia Mighty, solo
Mia Bach and Yauheniya Yesmanovich, piano

INTERMISSION

Carols of the Night

Still, still night — Jackson Berkey
Raylin Barnsdale, solo
All my heart the night rejoices — Valerie Shields
flute????
O Holy Night — Adolphe Adam (arr.Valerie Shields)
Laura Klassen, solo

Dancing Day — John Rutter

A cycle of traditional Christmas Carols

Angelus ad Virginem

A Virgin most pure

Tamara Vaughan, Joanna Leung, solos

Personent Hodie

There is no rose

Maegan Heller, Kristin Haines, Maria Kaushansky, solos

Coventry Carol

Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day

Kathleen Moore, soloist

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Program Notes

Angelus ad Virginem (The Angel to the Virgin came) is a 13th century Franciscan carol that still has great popularity today. Paul Halley's contemporary harmonic organ accompaniment and soaring descant bring a freshness to this ancient song of praise and make it an effective Processional.

The medieval carol *In Dulci Jubilo* (In sweet rejoicing) and the 16th century motet *Ecce Maria* (Behold Maria) are 14th century mystical texts set to joyous choral polyphony by the late renaissance German composer Michael Praetorius.

I sing of a maiden, perhaps the loveliest of all medieval religious lyrics has received many musical treatments. English composer Patrick Hadley's setting, with its magical atmosphere of stillness and peace, remains unsurpassed among them.

Mary Speaks is an exquisite choral expression, with American composer Daniel Gawthorp's subtle shifting harmonies freely underscoring a sublime Marian prayer by the American Episcopalian poet Madeleine l'Engle.

Willkommen, susser Brautigam (Welcome sweet Bridegroom) for two part chorus and strings is a graceful-sounding Christmas cantata in five verses composed by the early baroque German composer Vincent Luebeck (1654-1740). Christmas music was celebrated in a modest and humble manner in the middle 17th century but the seasonal celebration was still infused with an air of mystery and expression of simple joys suited to the occasion.

The *Magnificat* is the Blessed Virgin Mary's song of rejoicing, a personal expression of joy and thanksgiving at the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption. This exuberant setting of the Canticle of Mary by American composer Z. Randall Stroope, with piano four-hands, soprano solo and four-part treble chorus is a celebratory paean of praise.

The lyricism of Christmas Eve is beautifully reflected in these three contrasting compositions. Jackson Berkey' *Still, Still Night* transforms Franz Gruber's traditional Silent Night into a gentle expression of love and thanks. *All My*

Heart this Night Rejoices, by Valerie Shields, is a brilliant double choir arrangement of the familiar hymn tune interwoven with angelic shouts of 'gloria' and quiet pleas of 'pax' (peace). The ever-popular *O Holy Night* receives a fresh, sensitive and elegant treatment in this recent arrangement, again by the American organist and composer Valerie Shields.

Dancing Day, by the prolific English choral composer John Rutter, celebrates Christmas with a tapestry of familiar carols and old texts dating back as far as the 14th century. This is music of the people...merry medieval dance tunes that, with their religious texts, have one foot in the church door and the other in the village square. This amalgam of the sacred and secular experience retells the central event of Christmas with vivid imagery and affecting simplicity, throughout which runs the sense of awe, wonder and danceable joy.

Notes by Robert Cooper

Translations

Willkommen, süser Bräutigam - Welcome, Thou King of Glory
Composer: Vincent Leubeck (1656 - 1740)

Willkommen, süser Bräutigam, du König aller Ehren!
Willkommen, Jesu, Gottes Lamm, ich will dein Lob vermehren,
ich will dir all mein Leben lang von Hertzen sagen Preis und Dank,
dass du, da wir verloren, für uns bist Mensch geboren.

Welcome sweet bridegroom, king of highest honour;
Welcome o Jesus, Lamb of God, I can only ad my voice to your praise.
All my life long will I give you praise and thanks from the depths of my heart, for we were lost and you were born as man for us.

O grosses Werck, O wunder Nacht,
Dergleichen nie gefunden,
du hast den Heyland hergebracht der alles über wunden,
du hast gebracht deñ starcken Man,
der Feur und Wolcken zwingenkann für den?
die Himel zittern und alle Berg erschüttern.

O mighty deed, o wondrous night,
For never was there a night more glorious;
You have brought the all-conquering Saviour here.
You have brought us the strong man who can compel thunder and lightning to do his bidding,
And before whom the heavens tremble and all mountains quake.

O Liebes Kind, O süsser Knag, holdseelig von Geberden,
Mein Bruder deñ ich lieber hab, Alss alle Schätz auff Erden,
Kom Schönster in mein Hertz hinein,
Kom Elligst lass die Krippen sein,
Kom ich will bey Zeiten dein lager dir bereiten.

O darling Child, o blessed Boy, most blessedly beautiful of countenance,
I would rather have you as my brother than possess all the riches of the earth;
Come into my heart, O beautiful one,
Come quickly, leave your cradle;
Come, I will now prepare you your resting-place.

Sag an mein Hertzens Bräutigam mein Hoffnung Freud und Leben,

Now says, bridegroom of my heart, my hope, my joy, and my life,

Mein Edler Zweig auss Davids Stam,
wass soll ich dir doch geben Ache nim von mir,
Leib Seel und Geist,
ja alles was Mensch ist und heist ich will mich gantz verschreiben, dir Ewig true zu bleiben.

Lob Preiss und Danck Herr Jesu Christ sey dir von mir gesungen,
dass du mein Bruder worden bist und hast die Welt bezwungen,
hilf dass ich deine Süssigkeit stets priess in dieser Gnaden-Zeit,
und mög hernach dort Oben,
in Ewigkeit dich Loben.

My noble branch from David's tree, what I might give you.

Takie my body, my soul, and my spirit, indeed all that makes me man;
I will devote myself wholly to remaining ever faithful to you.

Praise, honor, and thanks will I sing to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
For you have become my brother and have endured this world;
Help me always to praise your sweetness in this time of grace,
That I may finally rise above to praise you in eternity.

Translations: Peter Lockwood

In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo
Nun singet und seid froh

Unsers Herzens Wonne
Liegt in praesepio

Und leuchtet als die sonne
matris in gremio

Alpha es et O

In Sweet Rejoicing
now sing and be joyful

Our heart's delight
lies in a manger

and shines like the sun
in his mother's lap

Thou art Alpha and O
The beginning and the end.

Ecce Maria

Ecce Maria, genuit nobis salvatorem.
Quem Johannes videns exclamavit dicens:

Ecce agnus Dei qui tollit peccata mundi.
Alleluia.

Behold Mary, who gave birth to our savior.
Whom Johannes saw and exclaimed, saying:
Behold the lamb of God that bears the sin of the world. Alleluia.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CHORUS

Robert Cooper, conductor

SOPRANO 1
Lauren Bird
Maegan Heller
Laura Klassen
Christine Lee
Joanna Leung
Cecilia McKibbon
Alicia Mighty
Kathleen Moore
Stephanie Oke
Brooke Richardson
Christine Suh
Tamara Vaughan

SOPRANO 2
Irene Apanovitch
Raylin Barnsdale
Natalie Basta
Julia Bentley
Tracee Noelle Downer
Roseane Greco
Kristin Haynes
Laura Kim
Susan Lam
Natalie Mak
Jennifer Matys
Sarah Pomper
Megan Prashad
Angie Roides
Anne Wong
Justine Wong
Elizabeth Margery Young

ALTO 1
Audrey Bild
Vivian Chiang
Angel Chen
Larissa Doherty
Natalie Giajewski
Grace Ha
Emma Heath-Engel
Chelsea Hughes
Maria Kaushansky
Danielle Kolenko
Andrea Nagy
Lindsay Tsuj
Yana Zhalezniakova

ALTO 2
Sachi Adachi
Rebecca Banman
Maria Christina Chern
Elaine Choi
Veronika Davy
Tanya Krosel
Chelsea Laird
Allison Law
Candice Leung
Karyn Raymond
Jee Eun (Megan) Shin
Amy Valyear
Deyi Ye
Jiao Zhang

Biography

One of Canada's leading choral conductors, **Robert Cooper, C.M.,** began his career under the tutelage of Helmuth Rilling and Robert Shaw. He is currently the Artistic Director of the *Orpheus Choir of Toronto*, *Chorus Niagara*, the *Opera in Concert Chorus,* and is a teaching member of the Choral Department, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. As a superb choral trainer and conductor, Mr. Cooper also provided strong artistic leadership to the *Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir* for 22 successful years, influencing over 2000 young adult singers. Many of those singers have gone on to solo careers, while others are adding their own voices to various choirs across Canada.

He enjoys a distinguished career as a guest conductor and clinician working with many of Canada's leading choral organizations and provincial choral federations. He has had the honour of conducting the *National Youth Choir* of Canada and made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1997 for a Celebration of Canadian Choral Music. He recently conducted concerts with Symphony Nova Scotia and the London Symphony, as well as conducting Newfoundland's *Festival 500* and productions for Toronto Operetta Theatre. In addition to his work with choirs, Robert Cooper has been involved with the presentation of more than 80 operas and has been a frequent guest conductor with opera companies across Canada. This October Mr. Cooper adjudicated the international choral competition *Let the People Sing* in London, England. He has also recorded CD's of both opera and choral music and provided choral backup for films and Stratford Festival productions.

Robert Cooper has served as President of both the Ontario Choral Federation and the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and is on the Board of Directors of Chorus America. To complete the circle, Mr. Cooper brings fine choral music to all of Canada as Executive Producer, Opera and Choral Music, for CBC Radio Two.

In June 2003 Robert Cooper received an Honorary Doctorate degree from Brock University for his significant contribution to the Canadian choral community. Also in the same year, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

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Weber: Euryanthe Overture
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Friday, February 11
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